

open honest countenance was sufficient to pre-  
judice any one in his favour, offered himself.

The captain, at the very first sight, wished to have this young fellow in his company; he observed him tremble, when he made the offer to enlist; attributing this emotion to timidity, or, perhaps, the uneasiness a young man might feel at selling himself, who is sensible of the value of liberty; he betrayed his suspicions on this head, and endeavoured to encourage him. Ah! Sir, replies the youth do not attribute my confusion to such base motives; it raises only from the dread of being refused: you, perhaps, will not accept of me; and should this be the case, how dreadful is my misfortune! Some tears escaped him, and he finished his speech. The captain assured him he was ready to enlist him, and demanded his terms. I cannot propose them without trembling, answered the youth; perhaps they will disgust you. I am young, you see my size, I am able in every respect, and willing to serve his Majesty: but an unfortunate circumstance obliges me to stand upon terms that doubtless you will think exorbitant: be assured, without the most pressing reasons, I should not sell my service; but necessity has no law; I cannot enlist under ten guineas, and you will break my heart if you refuse me upon these terms.

Ten

Ten guineas! replied the officer: is considerable, I acknowledge; I shall be and you seem willing; so I shall not be lagging with you; there is the serjeant will see you properly and keep yourself in readiness to march at an hour's notice.

The youth readily signed his contract and received the ten guineas with thankfulness as if they had been given him at present. He then requested his captain to permit him to go and fulfil a sacred duty, promising to return to his quarters instantly. The captain remarking something extraordinary in the behaviour of the youth, curious to discover the motives of his conduct, he watched him slyly, and observed him run to the county gaol (his hurry not permitting him to take notice of the captain) he opened the door, and the moment he was within, he called out to the gaoler, I have a debtor and costs in the action on which I have been arrested; I deposit my hands; conduct me to him that I may have the pleasure of setting him at liberty. The officer stops a minute, to give him time to reach his father alone, and then enters the prison. He sees the youth clasped in the arms of an old man, whom he greets with his caresses and tears. He informs that he has purchased him